**Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC) Strategies Project (N2)**

**4th Round Innovation Platform Meeting**

**Fogera Woreda**

Meeting date: May 15, 2012

Venue: Paradise hotel meeting Hall

Participants from Addis: Zelalem Lema (RiPPLE) and Alemayehu Belay (ILRI)

**Introduction**

Alemayehu led round of introductions and briefly mentioned on some of the discussions raised during the previous IP meetings. He introduced the Innovation fund (around 80,000ETB) that will enable the IP members to try out some joint action on the ground and mentioned that this meeting will focus on working out action plans on ways of addressing free grazing; which has been selected by the IP members as the major land and water management problem of the woreda. He presented some of the issues that could be focused on when one deals with free grazing (points discussed during the previous meeting):

* Continuous discussion with community members; raising awareness
* Experience sharing with places where there are best practices on free grazing
* Joint effort and better interaction among all the different stakeholders
* Supply of improved fodder
* Reduce the number of livestock
* Introduce better management system to the already existing communal grazing lands

Zelalem further explained about previous meeting events and what is expected from this meeting. He mentioned that this meeting would focus on;

* site selection,
* identifying specific actions,
* sharing roles and responsibilities for the actions,
* setting up time frames for the listed activities,
* Putting budget for listed activities, and
* Looking into challenges that may arise while working on the activities and possible solutions

NB: it was also emphasized that Participants attending IP meetings from the different offices should come be consistently to ensure continuity of the IP process instead of new faces from different offices coming every meeting (There were 10 new people who have not been to the previous meeting).

Zelalem further mentioned the criteria for the proposal that would be funded by the IF

* Actions must involve different stakeholders from community, kebele and woreda levels, and different sectors
* Action must involve communities and be driven by community demand
* Actions must focus clearly on rainwater management, rather than other challenges. Actions must be designed to address a challenge which is relevant to the wider landscape, rather than a very localized issue
* Actions should be carefully designed to be appropriate for local environmental conditions, livelihoods and community dynamics
* Platform members must justify the chosen intervention with some evidence showing that it has potential to improve rainwater management and livelihoods

**Site selection**

It was mentioned that sites are to be selected from the 4 Kebeles which lies under and are adjacent to the Mizwa micro watershed which has been selected for hydrological studies. The four kebeles are; Abua Kokit, Alember, Wej Arba Amba, and Diba Sifatra.

It was first suggested that Wej would be the ideal kebele to have our pilot and that those who came from the area further explain its suitability for easy water access to produce fodder. They further suggested that Gindenewr watershed would be specifically the ideal catchment within the kebele. There was a longer debate on whether to take that particular watershed or not as it has already been selected by the region as a model watershed and there could be overlaps. But then others mentioned that it has been selected by the region but left to the woreda to work on it, so we can capitalize on what has already been started and work on livestock feed on the specific watershed. And later it was agreed that Wej can be the kebele for piloting but on a different watershed called Gaja.

The criteria that were used for site selection include:

* Out of the four NBDC Micro Catchment kebeles (Wej, kokit, Diba and Alem ber)
* The problem of free grazing should be prevalent
* Where there is access to water (in case of establishing nursery)
* Willingness of farmers to accept
* Resource is limited
* Time is limited
* Where there is integrated NRM work?
* Convenient for follow up
* That represents the general agro-ecology of the woreda as this is something that can be replicable to the other sites as well

Once Gaja watershed was selected, participants started listing out the potential activities that could be accomplished in the next 3 months. List of activities include;

* Introducing the idea, community mobilization and raising awareness
* Site selection for nursery (2 sites )
* Socio-economic assessment
* Experience sharing and exchange visits
* Workout bylaws with farmers
* Working with influential people within the community and start working with them
* Identifying the strategies in which we want to develop fodder (backyard, communal or farm land and the type of fodder)
* Organizing farmer groups
* Two types of organization (woreda level and community level watershed committee)
* Forage development (identifying source, organizing and preparing seedling)
* Preparing action plan with the community
* Supply of improved livestock breed
* Introducing different forage improvement methods.

**Core Team Members**

Given the direct mandate of the office of agriculture, most of the activities could fall on the office. However it was suggested that it is mandatory to set up a core IP team members consisting of different stakeholders in order to make sure all the activities are implemented jointly. In addition to that since the issue is directly related with livestock feed, a focal person working on fodder issues has been named from the office of livestock. The Core team members include:

* Focal person for these activities – Getachew Molla
* Agriculture – Azmeraw (named in his absence)
* Andassa – Yenesew Abebe
* EWNRA –Keffie Minale
* Administration – Aseme Ferede (named in his absence)
* Livestock – Getachew Molla
* Land administration\_ Gedefaw Getnet (named in his absence)

NB: Some of the core team members were named in their absence considering their importance (in terms of their decision making power in their respective offices)

**The three Months work plan on Gaja watershed has been outlined by IP members as follows**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **How** | **By whom** | **when** | **Remark** |
| Selecting Got | Based on the criteria mentioned above | DA , Kebele admin and Getachew | May 28 (Ginbot 20) |  |
| Discuss with Influencial people in the community  And  Discussion with community members, introducing the project, raising awareness | Meetings with community | Administration, Getachew, ILRI (if Alemayehu makes it) | May 28-June 2 (Ginbot 20 – 25) |  |
| Checklist development and Socio-economic assessment | Collecting secondary and primary data necessary for livestock feed improvement | Yibeltal (NRM),  Getachew (Livestock),  Keffe (EWNRA), and  ILRI (if Ato Abate can make it) | June 7 (Ginbot 30 ) – June 17 (Sene 10) |  |
| Feeding back to community members |  | Yibeltal (NRM),  Getachew (Livestock),  Keffe (EWNRA), and  ILRI (if Ato Abate can make it) | June 7 (Ginbot 30 ) – June 17 (Sene 10) |  |
| Discussion with community members and developing action plans | community discussion | Yibeltal (NRM),  Getachew (Livestock),  Keffe (EWNRA), and  ILRI (if Ato Abate can make it) | June 7 (Ginbot 30 ) – June 17 (Sene 10) |  |
| Introducing bylaws | Community discussion | Yibeltal (NRM),  Getachew (Livestock),  Keffe (EWNRA), and  ILRI (if Ato Abate can make it) | June 7 (Ginbot 30 ) – June 17 (Sene 10) |  |
| Strengthening the already existing farmer level watershed committees |  | Merkew (Crop)  Belay (Land administration) |  |  |
| Fifth round of IP meeting to evaluate activities |  |  | June 27 (Sene 20) |  |

It was pointed out that as part of monitoring and evaluation mechanism, there should be reports coming out of each specific activity to be presented to the general IP members in the next meeting. The focal person took the responsibility of organizing reports of the activities which will be conducted between now and the next IP meeting.

Even though action plans will be developed with the community once the core team members go down to the specific watershed, discussion has been started on what could be the possible activities that could emerging and may need consideration by the general IP. These include;

1. Training

Forage, feeding practices

On identified gaps from the socio-economic study (by research centers-Andassa and woreda experts); There were suggestions that Andassa can provide trainings on forage seed

* It was also mentioned that payment should not be given for these kinds of trainings; especially those ones which are conducted within the site.

1. Site selection within the selected watershed for nursery site
2. Input supply (seedlings, fertilizer)

* There was question if ILRI could provide forage seeds for this activity; however Alemayehu mentioned that ILRI would not provide forage seeds but rather broker communication between the IP with private forage seed producers in Addis or elsewhere.

1. Using different strategies of forage development (

* backyard,
* on terraces,
* direct sowing on degraded communal grazing lands

1. Follow up work (weeding, manuring, fertilizer application, etc)
2. Detailed action plan with communities

**IF Fund and Proposal**

The IF fund has been introduced at the beginning of the meeting, however there were discussion on which office to transfer it to. There were views that it should be sent to the woreda finance office and some said the money may not be traced once it goes into the woreda finance. Alemayehu suggested that it may be better to do it through EthioWetland; as the hope is that EWNRA in the long run not only would facilitate the implementation of the IF on the ground but also facilitate the overall IP process. The IP members accepted this view and gave ILRI to finalize that process.

Regarding the proposal, even if the template was sent earlier, it has not been filled out. So the general IP members gave assignment to the core team members to fill out the template based on the discussions held and to send the proposal to ILRI.

**Action points for the next IP meeting**

* Reporting from the core team members on the activities scheduled to be implemented before the 5th meeting
* Discussion on implementation of the next activities
* Developing a consistent Monitoring and Evaluation tool other than reports (e.g photography, etc)

**Lessons Learnt**

* IP members coming from different offices should consistently attend IP meetings in order to keep momentum of the IP process; i.e assigning contact person from each office.
* Once actions on the ground have started, more follow up work should be done and setting up of a stronger M&E system

**List of Participants of the third Innovation Platform meeting, Fogera wereda, March 15, 2012**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Office** | **Role/Responsibility** | **Contact Number** |
| **1** | Biadgie Wubie | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Deputy | 0918091169 |
| 2 | Keffie Minale | Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) | Field office coordinator | 05844660943/0918706794 |
| 3 | Belay Dejen | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Livestock Development Process owner | 0584460027/0918094921 |
| 4 | Tesfaye Hailesilassie | Office of Agriculture | Extension team leader | 058446011/0918711059 |
| 5 | Muluken Wubetie | Woreda office of Agriculture | Planning | 0918179083 |
| 6 | Molla Tilahun | Woreda Office of Agriculture | process owner | 0918779671 |
| 7 | Chalachew Molla | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Natural resource management process owner | 0584460695/0918071399 |
| 8 | Begashaw Asnakaw | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Irrigation expert | 0584460064/0918767431 |
| 9 | Mulunesh Asres | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Early warning process owner | 0584460695/0918094421 |
| 10 | Zlalem Ewnetu | Woreda office of finance and economic development | head | 0918803722 |
| 11 | Wuletaw Terefe | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent-  Kokit kebele | 0918094351 |
| 12 | Wassihun Baye | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent-Wej Arba Amba kebele | 0918021544 |
| 13 | Molla Gizachew | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent-Dibasifatra kebele | 0918094269 |
| 14 | Birhanu Chanie | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent-Alember Zuria | 0918072300 |
| 15 | Yenesew Abebe | Andassa Livestock Research Center | Researcher | 0918719831 |
| 16 | Getachew Molla | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Forage development and nutrition | 0918073395 |
| 17 | Yibeltal Mequanent | Woreda office of Agriculture | NRM expert | 0911862866 |
| 18 | Wondie Muchie | Woreda office of Agriculture | Communication | 0927614152 |
| 19 | Anguach Fasikaw | Woreda office of women’s affairs | Head | 0910498901 |
| 20 | Fikre Asnakew | Woreda office of cooperatives | leader | 0918702645 |
| 21 | Belay Yirdaw |  |  | 0918778806 |
| 22 | Abera Fente | Abua Kokit Kebele | farmer | 0924359676 |
| 23 | Walelign Zegeye | Wej Arba Amba kebele administrator | farmer | 0918640601 |
| 24 | Abebaw Nadew | Alember Kebele administrator | Farmer | 0918375619 |
| 25 | Shumet Anteneh | Diba Sifatra Kebele administrator | Farmer | 0918096583 |
| 26 | Zelalem Lema | RIPPLE | Researcher | 0912066839 |
| 27 | Alemayehu Belay | International Livestock Research Institute | Researcher | 0911885535 |